

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. Claim 6 is canceled above. Claims 1, 4, and 7 are amended above. New claims 9-15 are added above. No new matter is added by the claim amendments. Entry is respectfully requested.

Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary does not indicate whether the drawings filed in the application are acceptable. Confirmation of their acceptability is respectfully requested.

The Applicant further notes that receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement filed June 16, 2004 has not yet been acknowledged in the application. The Applicant respectfully requests that an initialed copy of the submitted document be included with the next official paper transmitted by the Office as confirmation of receipt of the Information Disclosure Statement, and as confirmation of consideration of the listed references.

Applicant notes that the Office Action does not indicate whether the Preliminary Amendment filed November 13, 2001 has been entered. Acknowledgment of entry the Preliminary Amendment filed November 13, 2001 is respectfully requested. Applicant also notes that dependent claims 3, 4 and 7 were amended in the Preliminary Amendment filed November 13, 2001, and claims 3, 4 and 7 are therefore presented in the present Listing of Claims as amended in the Preliminary Amendment filed November 13, 2001.

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Office Action indicates at page 4, sections 3 and 4, that claims 3-7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Independent claim 1 is amended to include the limitations of former claim 6. New independent claim 9 includes the limitations of original claims 1 and 7. Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 8, and allowance of amended independent claim 1, and claims dependent thereon, are respectfully requested. In addition, allowance of claims 9-15 is respectfully requested.

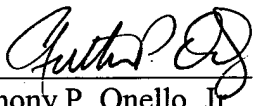
Claims 1, 2, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim (U.S. Patent No. 5,686,972). These rejections are believed to be no longer applicable in view of the foregoing amendments. Removal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Closing Remarks

It is submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is respectfully requested. If prosecution of the application can be expedited by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 22, 2005
Mills & Onello, LLP
Eleven Beacon Street, Suite 605
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: (617) 994-4900, Ext. 4902
Facsimile: (617) 742-7774
J:\SAM\0267\amenda\amendmenta.wpd


Anthony P. Onello, Jr.
Registration Number 38,572
Attorney for Applicant